HOARY FALSE MADWORT

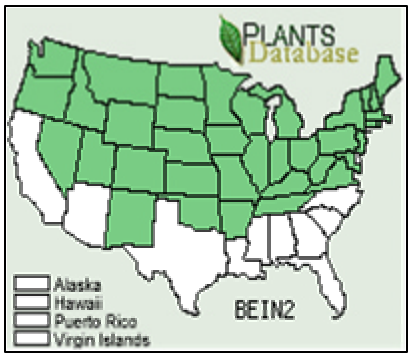
Berteroa incana (L.) DC

Description: Hoary False Madwort, also called Hoary Alyssum is an annual, biennial, or perennial, reproducing by seeds. The name "hoary" indicates many rough hairs on stems, leaves, and seed pods. **Stems** are gray-green, hairy, 1 to 3 feet (30 to 90 cm) tall, with many branches near the top. Alternate **leaves** are gray-green, hairy, alternate, oblong, narrow, 1/2 to 3 inches (1.3 to 7.5 cm) long, with smooth edges. **Flowers** white, with 4 deeply divided petals are produced in long raceme. **Seed pods** are hairy, swollen, and oblong with short beaks on the end. Oblong **seeds** are rough, dull gray-brown.

Habitat: Grows on sandy soils along roadsides, railroad tracks, disturbed lands, waste areas, meadows, and pastures. It is particularly adapted to dry conditions such as occur on sandy or gravelly soils. This species is cool season forb emerges in late April, flowers in June, continues growing and producing seed in September.

Environmental Concern: Spreads rapidly due to the high number of seeds per plant. The plant emerges early in spring and continues to flower and produce seed until frost. It can cause toxicity to Horses. (www.extension.umn.edu)

Distribution:



Control and Management:

1. Manual control by hand pulling or digging can be very effective for small infestations but should be done before flowering.
2. Chemical control several effective at label rates but may require more than one application.
3. Cultural control good vegetative cover helps but does not prevent establishment or spread.
4. Biological control no known biological control.

References: http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/plant_profile, www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/ansci/range/eb69-13.htm, www.ag.uiuc.edu/~vista/html_pubs/WEEDS/87.html, http://okanogancounty.org/nw/Class%20B-Designate.htm#HOARY%20ALYSSUM